Amendments to Claims

Claim 1-15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (previously presented): A compound having the formula

where

R is an unsubstituted or a substituted alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, or aromatic group or is derived from an aromatic or aliphatic residue of an isocyanate, diisocyanate, or polyisocyanate compound;

n is 1-10; and

R1 is a branched or unbranched alkyl.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A nitrile oxide precursor compound according to Claim 1 where R is substituted with alkyl, sulfate, sulfonate, alkoxy, CN, NO₂ or an aromatic group.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The compound of claim 1 where R is a biphenyl group, fused rings or repeating aromatic groups.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The compound of claim 1 where R is or residue of an isocyanate, dilsocyanate, or polyisocyanate compound selected from the group consisting of:

H₃C-NCO

CH3(CH2)x-NCO

where x is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11 or 17

Y-(CH2)x-NCO

where Y is Br or Cl and x is 2 or 3

where X is CH₃ CH₂C-, ClH₂C-, Cl₃C-, H₃CH₂CO- or Cl

where x is 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10 or 12

where n is 2, 3 or 4

CH2~NCO

$$\begin{array}{c} CH_3 \\ CH_2 \\ CH_2 \\ CH_2 \\ CH_2 \\ CH_3 \\ CH$$

and

where X and Y are chosen so that the molecular weight of the polyneopentyl glycol adipate diisophorone terminated isocyante structure is approximately 1350.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The compound of claim 1 wherein R is derived from an aromatic or aliphatic residue of an isocyanate, or diisocyanate or triisocyanate compound selected from the group consisting of 4,4'-methylenebis(phenyl isocyanate) ("MDI"); hydrogenated MDI; isophorone diisocyanate ("IPDI"), 1-(1-isocyanato-1-methyl ethyl)-3-(1-methyl ethenyl)benzene("m-TMI"), isophorone amd triisocyanate, isophorone, and tetramethylenexylenediisocyanate.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The compound of claim 1 where R is C₃₋₁₇ alkyl.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A compound selected from the group consisting of:

$$\mathsf{CH_{3}CH_{2}O} - \mathsf{CC} - \mathsf{CC} - \mathsf{CC} - \mathsf{N} - \mathsf{N} - \mathsf{CH_{2}CH_{3}} - \mathsf{CH_{2}CH_{2}CH_{3}}$$

Claim 23 (currently amended): A process for the generation of a nitrile oxide precursor compound comprising the steps of

- a) generating a potassium enolate of ethyl nitroacetate in situ;
- b) isolating said enolate; and
- c) adding to said isolated enolate an isocyanate, diisocyanate or polyisocyanate material in a polar aprotic solvent.

Claim 24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (currently amended): The process of Claim 24 wherein the polar solvent is selected from the group consisting of diglyme, monoglyme, glyme, THF, DMF and DMSO tetrahydrofuran, dimethylformamide and dimethylsulfoxide.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A process for crosslinking a polymer composition comprising adding the compound of claim 1 to a polymer solution of a polymer comprises one or more pendant or terminal functional groups selected from the group consisting of alkenes, alkynes, nitriles and isocyanates and heating the mixture to form a nitrile oxide in situ and a crosslinked polymer.

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (previously presented): A urethane composition which is stable to temperatures below 120°C comprising the compound of claim 1.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A pressure sensitive adhesive, reactive hot melt adhesive, polyurethane dispersion, thermosetting adhesive, thermoplastic adhesive or coating comprising the compound of claim 1.

Claim 30 (currently amended): An AB copolymer where A comprises a compound of claim 19 which is derived from 1-(1-isocyanato-1-methyl ethyl)-3-(1-methyl ethenyl)benzene ("m-TMI") and B is a an <u>unsaturated</u> compound with elefinic functionality.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A polyurethane reactive hot melt adhesive comprising a compound of claim 1.